

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Micah 6:6, 8)

Pat Swinger, Liturgist

One: With what shall we come before the Holy One, and bow ourselves before
God on high?

**Many: Shall we come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year
old?**

One: God has showed you, O people, what is good; and what does the Holy
One require of you?

**Many: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our
God.**

*UNISON PRAYER

**Holy One, your ways are true and just. We praise you for your righteous
reign, announced by prophets and apostles and embodied in your son,
Jesus. We give you thanks that you invite us to live today under your
gracious rule. Strengthen us and give us clear vision to live by Christ's call:
to treat others justly and with love, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and
to visit the sick and lonely. Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as you did with
Jesus all those year's ago as he began his public ministry. May we live as
your children of light. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*HYMN

“As Jesus Worshipped”

(Tune: Spirit of God, Descend Upon Our Hearts)

**“As Jesus worshipped on each Sabbath day,
We come together now to sing and pray.
Open to us the scriptures’ full intent,
That we may live by what is excellent.**

**As Jesus taught, empower us to teach;
Loosen our tongues your great good news to preach.
Touch us and cleanse, that we in turn may heal,
And by our love and care your word reveal.**

**As Jesus freed the captive and oppressed,
We are encouraged now to give our best.
Show us anew the gifts your love imparts;
Open our eyes, O God, and lift our hearts.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WE GIVE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US
INVITATION TO GIVE

One: In this imperfect world God entrusts love to us and bids us to share it in
practical and helpful ways. Our offerings are one response we make to the
love of God, poured out in Jesus Christ.

Many: **We pass on that love in word and deed as we commit our gifts to
God’s purposes.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Holy, God, We Praise Your Name” 276 (v 1)

**Holy, God, we praise your name; Sovereign God, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim, all the heavenly hosts adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

In hope and trust we dedicate ourselves and our offerings to your service, O God. Deliver us from our fears and make us bold to express your love in word and deed. May others know your outstretched hands and arms of support because we have shared what you entrust to us. Amen.

*HYMN “In the Midst of New Dimensions” 391

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways? (*Refrain*)**

Refrain **God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and evermore.**

**Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? (*Refrain*)**

**As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. (*Refrain*)**

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. (*Refrain*)**

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. (*Refrain*)**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Today's second hymn and the offering invitation and prayer were written by Lavon Baylor. They are printed, with permission, from Refreshing Rains of the Living Word by Lavon Baylor. Copyright 1988 The Pilgrim Press.

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

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The Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Pastor & Teacher
 Ken Tucker, Director of Music
 Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist
 Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager
 Gary Edler, Cemetery Sexton
 Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian
 The Rev. Dr. William H. Schwab, Pastor Emeritus

St. Peter's United Church of Christ welcomes you to today's worship. If you are visiting us today for the first time, please fill out the "Welcome Card" in the pews and place it in the offering plate. We also welcome those who are attending worship online.

"These Days" devotional booklets and the January Newsletter are available in the atrium and the church office.

Please pray . . . With Ken, Grace, Amber E., Clayton, Matt Ashley, Greg Berry, Jon Sanfilippo, Charlie Sincox, Todd Ford, Laurie Pinnell, Blake Georgie

St. Peter's UCC will be taking in new members in the near future. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Kurt.

Worship Attendance – January 18 & 19, 2024

Saturday In-Person: 19 Sunday In-Person: 71 YouTube Views: 47

2025 calendars are available for purchase in the church office. Cost is \$10 each.

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thurs., Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. Our program is sharing with one another what you did to stay safe and sane during the snowstorm of 2025. Did you start a new craft, read a great book, work on a jigsaw puzzle, or clean a closet? If possible, bring a picture or an example of your activity. Lunch will be served. It will be a fun time of sharing!

In 2025 **St. Peter's UCC Cemetery** will celebrate 150 years-- A Bit of History- Congregational Meeting, March 26, 1876. A motion that the congregation take over the cemetery while not yet paid for was tabled. January 1, 1877. It was decided to take over the cemetery as soon as the association was willing to do so. March 25, 1877. The motion made in a previous meeting that the congregation take over the cemetery was changed to the effect that it would do so as soon as all debts had been paid or the debts remaining would be negligible.

This Week at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:

Sunday, January 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Monday, January 27, 2025

12:00-3:00 pm. – Quilting

6:30 p.m. – AA

6:30 p.m. – Girl Scouts

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

1:30-3:00 pm. – Coffee with the Pastor

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Quilting

10:00 a.m. – Prayer Meeting

11:30 a.m. – Bible Study

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. – Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 30, 2025

6:30 p.m. – AA

Saturday, February 1, 2025 Aluminum Drive

5:00 p.m. – Worship/Holy Communion

5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table (Dining Room)

Sunday, February 2, 2025 Aluminum Drive

10:00 a.m. – Worship/Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

MLK Celebration: Mission Possible. “Neighbors United” is sponsoring an event commemorating Martin Luther King Day. It will be held at East Central College, John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center, Sun., Jan. 26 at 3 p.m.

The Mission Team will host a Lunch and Learn on Sun., Feb, 16 following worship. We will have lunch and then learn about **Back Bay Mission** in Biloxi, MS. Our team that traveled to the Mission last September will present a program on what Back Bay Mission is and our experiences while there. Another trip is planned for the 3rd week in September this year-- Sept. 20-27. All are welcome to come have lunch and learn more about Back Bay Mission!

All 2024 Boards and Committees. Year ending reports are due to the MESSENGER for printing in March 2024 for the Annual report. Please forward the reports to Newsletter Annual Report (newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org) on or before Mon., Feb. 17, 2025. Thank you.

Our annual **Mardi Gras** celebration will be held on Sun., March 2, 2025. We would like to REJUVENATE our annual Board of Christian Education fundraiser by inviting anyone with new thoughts or ideas to reach out to the BCE members and please share. We are also inviting anyone/family who is interested in creating and running a game booth to please reach out. Of course, we will also need our usual dessert donations for the cake walk, and basket donations for the raffles. We plan on setting up for the festivities on Sat., March 1, 2025. Time TBD.

2024 Contribution Statements were mailed last week. If you have not received yours, please be in touch with Carol in the church office. 239-6176

Aluminum Drive: A pick-up truck will be parked in the South parking lot next weekend where you may place the cans. ONLY aluminum cans, in bags please, should be placed in the truck; please do not include tin foil and/or pie pans. Thanks for all the help we receive from the congregation!

2025 Altar Flowers If you would like to place altar flowers in honor or in memory of someone, or a special occasion, please contact the church office by phone 636-239-6176 or email office@stpeters-ucc.org and we will make a note on the 2025 Altar Flower Chart, letting you know whether or not that particular date is already spoken for. The chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary if you would like to sign up. Information we need from you: date you wish to provide the two arrangements; the information you wish to have printed in the worship bulletin; whether or not you will come by church the Monday after worship to pick up the bouquets. After a date has been secured, please contact a florist and make arrangements to have them deliver your selection on Friday before noon. Thank you

2025 Worship Bulletins The worship bulletin is an integral part of our worship service each week. If you would like to purchase the bulletins for a service in honor or in memory of someone, please mark the Bulletin Chart (2025 chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary) accordingly and contact the church office to inform us at to what you wish to have printed in the bulletin. Thank you



Never have cash or a check handy but want to financially support St. Peter's UCC? Use this QR code to open a link to give via PayPal. PayPal allows you to use your credit card or checking account to give once or a reoccurring gift. Don't forget that your bank also offers reoccurring checks and/or transactions. Thank you for helping to take care of your church!

Choir Anthem: "Thy Word" MW Smith "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still You're there right beside me. And nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. I will not forget Your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide, and hold me to Your side; and I will love You to the end. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path, and a light unto my path; and a light unto my path."